

Tyler Junior College News

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 797
Tyler, TX 75711

Volume 70 No. 27

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Students apply by April 1 to graduate

By Brooke Langston
Staff Writer

TJC's spring graduation will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 14 in Wagstaff Gymnasium. Students must apply by April 1 and complete a form from the academic advising office for their major. TJC charges no fee to those who graduate.

TJC offers three ceremonies for graduates. In addition to the traditional spring graduation in May, students can graduate in August or December. University Studies Adviser Silvana Vierkant estimates 600 graduates in May and 450 in each of the summer and fall ceremonies.

"Participating in graduation is optional, strictly up to the student," Vierkant said. Those who participate must attend a mandatory dress rehearsal, where they will receive their cap and gown. Students in Phi

Theta Kappa can purchase a sash for \$16 at the cashier's office.

Each graduate receives five free invitations and can purchase more for 25 cents each. Those who choose not to participate will be notified when they can pick up their diplomas or have them mailed.

Every student must meet with an academic adviser to apply for graduation. The adviser will make sure the student meets all requirements, Vierkant said.

After spring grades are released, advisers will run a final degree check about a month after the ceremony. "It's important for students to know that just because you participate in the ceremony, you still may be ineligible," Vierkant said.

Students may not know they can transfer credit back after they leave TJC and apply for a diploma



Photo by Rachael Riley

Students need no appointment to meet with their adviser to apply for graduation.

then. They must have 15 credit hours at TJC to do this.

Students can apply for a transfer degree, an associate in arts; a two-year non-transfer degree, an associate in applied science; or a one-year Certificate of Proficiency. Students may refer to catalogs for specific degree requirements. "It is possible to receive two diplomas in different areas," Vierkant said.

"We love for students to get degrees," Vierkant said. "It's a nice award to have for two years of hard work."

Enrollment drops, contact hours rise

By Anthony Croff
Staff Writer

Spring 2005 semester enrollment numbers are down from Spring 2004. As of the twelfth class day, the preliminary uncertified number of students enrolled this semester is 8,973. "That is 1.56 percent less than last spring's enrollment of 9,113," Marketing and Public Relations Director Fred Peters said.

Despite the decline in enrollment, preliminary contact hours, the total number of hours the student population has contact with their instructors, are trending higher, Peters said. Spring 2005 students have 1,980,296 contact hours, an all-time record. That is a 5.17 percent increase from spring 2004's 1,970,056. "Historically," Peters said, "when students have taken more hours, there is a lower dropout rate." This would indicate that students are, perhaps, more serious.

This year is considered a "base year" for college funding because the state legislature is in session. The upward trend in contact hours will likely be good for TJC as far as funding from the state is concerned, Peters said. But the process by which the state determines funding is complex and dependent on many variables, including what types of courses students are taking, he said.

These preliminary numbers must still be certified by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. TJC has seen an average growth of about 200 students each spring semester since 1998.

Education funds keep 179 TJC veterans in class

By Randy Thomas
Staff Writer

They're all around you. One may even be sitting next to you in class. They are the few, the proud, the veterans.

Veterans are not a major part of the TJC population, as far as numbers go, but they are involved in almost every major offered on campus.

Approximately 179 veterans enrolled at TJC range from active reservists to those retired from the service plus dependents of service men and women, Veterans Representative Meghann

Worthing said.

Worthing works in the Admissions Office in White Administrative Service Center and can be reached at 903-510-3750. She asks that all veterans keep her informed of all changes in their information. She encourages those who have any questions to come by and visit anytime.

Veterans receive their financial aid from various sources. Those on active duty use the Montgomery GI Bill known as Chapter 30. Select Reservists have Chapter 1606, and Chapter 31 serves those

who are disabled and in rehabilitation.

Chapter 35, a special financial program, is set up for those who are 100 percent disabled, were POW/MIA's for at least 90 days or are the surviving spouse or dependent of a service person killed in the line of duty.

Sixty of the veterans enrolled here use another special plan called the Hazelwood Act. Hazelwood serves those for whom all other options have been exhausted. It is available only to veterans who were Texas residents when they enlisted,

were discharged more than 10 years ago with an honorable discharge and are not in default on any student loans.

Hazelwood can be used only at state-funded institutions, not private ones. If the veteran is eligible for a Pell Grant, Hazelwood pays for any tuition and fees Pell does not cover.

Veterans usually have been out of the school loop for a while, which sometimes makes the transition back into education difficult. Special Populations Coordinator Jan Adams in Student Ser-

vices can help ease these older students back into college life.

Other sources of help for veterans in getting their education include: Ed Harmon at the Texas Veteran's office in Tanglewood East Shopping Center at the intersection of Fifth Street and Loop 323 in Tyler. His phone number is 903-565-0440.

The toll free number for education benefits is 1-888-GIBILL1 or 1-888-442-4551. Information can also be found on the Internet at www.gibill.va.gov.

CAMPUS F·O·C·U·S

What are your plans for Spring Break?



Amber Stephinson, 21, nursing major. "Camping, and going to see the play, 'Passion of the Christ' in Branson."



Andrew Brown, 19, meteorology major. "Going to Tijuana to party."



Kenneth Venable, 35, nursing major. "Going snow-boarding with the wife and kids."



Michael Frazier, 20, art major. "Hitch up to Michigan with two friends to be an extra in the new Romero installation of 'The Dawn of the Dead' series."

Tyler Junior College News

Page Editors

Amy Bumgarner
Miranda Nelson
Rachael Riley

Staff Writers

Anthony Croff
Bethany Frank
Brooke Langston
Brian Martin
Randy Thomas
Anthony Williams

News or Advertising
903-510-2335 or 2299

The Tyler Junior College News is published by journalism students every other week of fall and spring terms except during holidays and exams. Opinions expressed in the News are not necessarily those of adviser or administration.

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Intercollegiate Press
Association

Texas Community College
Journalism Association

'Hitch' proves the 'date doctor' is real

By Miranda Nelson
Page Editor

The doctor is in, the date doctor that is. His name is Alex Hitchens. Anywhere a man is in love with a woman that seems out of his league, Hitch is there to help him win her heart. However, when Hitch meets Sara (Eva Mendes), he has trouble taking his own advice.

In this funny, romantic comedy, Will Smith plays Alex Hitchens, a "date doctor" who helps the common guy win the girl of his dreams. One client, Albert (Kevin James) is hopelessly in love with heiress Allegra Cole. Desperate to capture her heart, Albert hires Hitch to help him woo her.

While helping Albert keep his cool, Hitch meets Sara, gossip columnist for the local newspaper. The two hit it off immedi-

ately, but both hold back to guard their feelings. With a few smooth moves, Hitch persuades Sara to go out with him. On their date everything seems to go wrong, but that is the charm of this film.



*Charming & hilarious.
Smith and Mendes bring
magic to the screen.*

Smith has no problem playing suave, sophisticated Alex Hitchens. He glides into this role and makes viewers believe this is his true personality. Smith was made for this role.

From his early days as "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," Smith has captivated hearts with his wit and loveable personality. Smith not only stars in this production,

but he also produces "Hitch," one of many producing opportunities since his first shot with the last two seasons of "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air."

Mendes plays the role of Sara, a bitter gossip columnist, exuding the strength of a woman protecting herself from getting hurt.

When Hitch enters Sara's life, she has trouble keeping him out of her heart. Mendes does an excellent job transforming from a hard-hearted, defensive woman to one completely in love.

Kevin James of "The King of Queens" plays Albert, a CPA trying to make the woman he loves fall for him. His nerdy persona and nervousness around Allegra bring tears to viewers' eyes from laughing so hard. There is no one to play this part better than James.

The laughs continue to fly to the very end. Smith and Mendes make a beautiful couple. After all the laughs and slapstick humor, "Hitch" provides a lesson: be yourself and let people love you for that.

Ladies should take their men to see this movie. Maybe they'll learn a thing or two.

March DVD/Video Releases

March 15

The Incredibles
Alfie

March 22

Finding Neverland
Fat Albert
Bridget Jones: The
Edge of Reason
Being Julia

March 29

Closer
After the Sunset
Vera Drake
National Lampoon's
Gold Diggers

News Briefs

First Monday Series entertains

E-Baby, a spoken word poet from Washington D.C., entertained about 75 students Feb. 7. He travels the nation performing Slam Poetry at college campuses. One celebrity he has opened for is Mos Def.

Slam poetry is a type of poem spoken to argue a point or an issue. It has become popular in the Northeast in the past five or six years.

Students looking for something to do can check out the Apache Rooms around 7:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month. They will find a series of entertainers the Student Senate has dubbed the First Monday Series.

Performers include Davis and Dow, a Jazz band who perform hits from well-known artists including The Beatles, Miles Davis, Hendrix, Billie Holiday, and Al Jarreau. The second performance opens at 7:30 p.m. on March 7.

"The Student Senate thought that the students needed more things to do. They decided they should bring in some performers they saw at an APCA meeting," Student Activities Director W. Scott Nalley said. The name was chosen to reflect the popular First Monday Trade Days in Canton, a tradition dating back many decades.

The last one to perform will be Johnny Walker, an up-and-coming comic who has been on MTV. His performance opens at 7:30 p.m. April 4.

Students to perform 'Musical Comedy'

The Speech and Theater Department will present John Bishop's long-running Broadway show, "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940," at 7:30 p.m. March 8-12 in Jean Browne Theatre.

Tickets cost \$5 each at the Wise Cultural Arts Center box office and can be purchased from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets can also

be reserved by calling the Theater TJC box office at 903-510-2212.

Financial workshop can help students

Free financial aid workshops can help students and their parents file their financial aid information for the 2005-2006 school year. Students should bring their parents and their 2004 1040 tax forms and W-2 forms, their driver's license and any untaxed income statements such as child support received, Social Security, etc.

The next workshop will be 6:30 p.m. March 22 in the Apache Rooms. The final workshop will be at 6:30 p.m. April 28 in Pirtle Tech Room 362. Reservations are required for this workshop. Please call 903-510-2385.

Summer 1 sign-up to begin March 21

Online registration for Summer Session 1 will start March

21. The deadline to register for Summer Session 1 is May 23 and June 27 for Summer Session 2.

Students must be approved by their academic adviser to register.

For the first time students will be advised on a walk-in basis only. Students are urged to start advising now before they face long lines and long waits.

Hours for the Allied Health and Nursing advising office are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Wednesday, Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For Applied Studies, hours are Monday, Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The University Studies office is open Monday to Thursday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

TJC will not offer a Maymester term. Summer Session 1 runs May 31 to July 5. Summer Session 2 runs July 6 to Aug. 3.

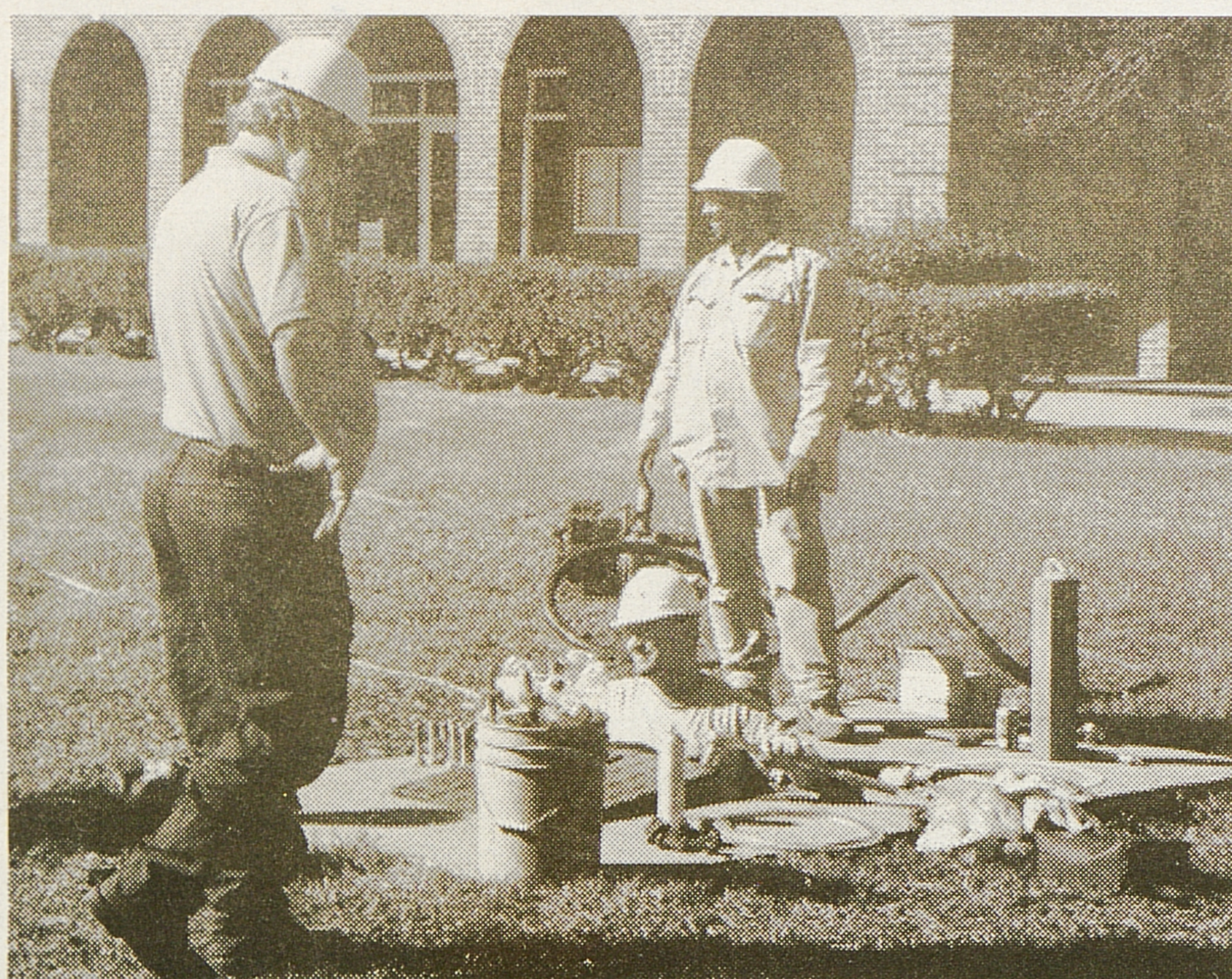


Photo By Bethany Frank

Pipe breaks, heats campus buildings

By Bethany Frank
Staff Writer

Many classrooms and offices were uncomfortable in early February when the campus heating-cooling system developed a vapor lock. At 7 o'clock Feb. 14 the mechanics went to work to repair the campus air conditioning system. Fatigue from use and lots of water moving through it caused the PVC pipe fitting for the cool

water loop to break.

This one huge water main running between Vaughn Library and Jenkins Hall controls the temperature for the entire campus, Central Plant Supervisor Kevin Jones explained. After building a part and many hours of work, the campus mechanics were able to fix the pipe and restore comfort to classrooms and offices.

Art Club schedules film viewings

By Anthony Williams
Staff Writer

The TJC Art Club will show films at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays and at 2:30 p.m. every other Thursday through April. The programs are a first for the Art Club, organized only two years ago.

"Come hang out, bring some popcorn, and enjoy a good movie," Club secretary Amber Draschil said.

Movies scheduled in March are: March 2 "Matilda," March 3 "Do the Right Thing," March 9 "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," March 23 "The Incredibles," March 30 "Citizen Kane," and March 31 "The Legend of 1900." April movies include a collection of short documentaries, "Gimme Shelter," "Waiting for Guffman," "Annie Hall," and "L.A. Story."

"The cool thing about an Art Club is that anything goes," Club sponsor Derrick White said. When his wife asked why they are showing movies, White replied, "It's art! It's interesting to get different perspectives of the films, see what they remind you of. You see new things."

Many students came out to see "Napoleon Dynamite" and other films earlier this month. "We just hope it's making students more aware of the Club. We'll probably have this next semester as well," Draschil said.

The club recently installed a metal sculpture and a six foot by eight foot collage in the Pirtle Technology Center.

"They wanted something to fill up some space, and we were happy to help," White said. "We also help with the

Boys and Girls Club, teaching art classes to local elementary school kids."

The Art Club plans a trip March 5 to the Dallas Museum of Art and the Nasher Sculpture Center. The annual silent art auction begins March 30, and ends April 7. "We hope to get a scholarship started soon for TJC art students. The money from the auction will greatly help with that," White said.

Anyone who wants to join the TJC Art Club can stop by the Art department in Jenkins Hall.

"We're growing, and we're trying to do a lot of things and collaborate as a group," Club vice-president June Rotter said.

"Not trying - doing!" White said.

Websites provide information for taxpayers

By Amy Bumgarner
Page Editor

April 15 is quickly approaching, which means federal income taxes must be paid. For many students, this will be their first time to file independently from their parents, a task that can be quite intimidating. Luckily, numerous sites provide tips and information about filing income taxes.

The Internal Revenue Service provides tips on their website, www.irs.gov. They give information on everything from how to avoid tax

scams to how to claim gifts on tax returns. There is even a helpful link explaining what is and is not considered taxable.

Another helpful web site is www.hrblock.com. Not only do they provide tips, but they also give taxpayers other tools such as a tax estimator and ways to plan for next year. For those who don't feel comfortable filing their own taxes, they can use the web site to locate the nearest H&R BLOCK.

Of course, other businesses that provide financial assistance, such as

Jackson-Hewitt and Ameritax, have their own web sites with similar information.

The newest craze in income tax filing is the E-File option. Because it is a fairly new program, no evidence proves it is or is not the best way to go.

Just as with filing through the mail, delays may occur and the main benefactor of the system remains the IRS. The IRS saves postage and paper work costs because they don't have to mail out refund checks. They simply deposit the refund into a

specified account the taxpayer chooses. This method could save time and money, making it a good choice.

The IRS web site lists many common mistakes to avoid, and advises even "a simple mistake can cause problems."

Some mistakes are:

- incorrect Social Security numbers
- missing signatures
- math errors

The IRS advises taxpayers to always double check their figures.

For those who E-File, providing the wrong routing or account number on the return will cause large delays, so it is a good idea to double check those as well.

Even for experienced tax-filers, these web sites offer a lot of information that can help them file a more accurate and speedy tax return.

Helpful Websites for Tax Prep

www.irs.gov
www.hrblock.com
www.jacksonhewitt.com
www.ameritax.com

ABS gives students place to worship

By Anthony Croff
Staff Writer

The Association of Baptist Students provides a place for TJC students to study, eat, worship or just hang out. ABS Director Keith Brown said, "We want to reach out to the students and give them the opportunity for fellowship."

The ABS is supported by local church associations. It provides a free lunch at noon every Monday that concludes with a five to ten minute devotional. The ABS also con-

ducts a Bible and book study on leadership at 7 a.m. on Wednesdays. Brown said he hopes to one day plan a larger campus event that possibly includes a concert.

Brown, who teaches an Introduction to Christianity class, said the ABS places a special emphasis on international students. He wants it to feel like a place they can come to. The ABS has a kitchen, a pool table, stereo system and couches all for students to use.

Amanda Hukill

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